Monitoring of the Parc amazonien de Guyane’s territory

Overview of the current situation of illegal goldmining

RENFORESAP Workshop 12/02/20

*Tadeu (Maripa-Soula) : Core zone of the PAG (21/09/2019)*
Illegal goldmining in the PAG

- 100 illegal sites at its set up 2008
- 145 sites in September 2019

Between 45 and 70 sites in the core zone of the Park

Source: ONF, PAG.
Illegal gold mining in French Guiana has increased again by the end of the 90s with the rise in the price of gold (4.5 times).

2 techniques for gold extraction:
- Alluvial sites
- Primary sites
The goldminers:
- pump water from the creek with a motopump (1)
- this is propelled by spears (2) to create mud
- which is sent to a lift table (3) to recover the gold
Consequences:

- Trees cut down, stripped soil, destroyed riverbed, turbid water
- Mercury in the food chain
- Pollution (fuel, waste)
The goldminers dig wells and galleries in search of gold in quartz veins.
**Primary Site**

**Consequences:**
- The wells leave many holes which constitute potential traps
- Profitable activity which concentrates very large populations of goldminers
- Overall, less impact than alluvial sites
Other impacts

- Destruction of the way of life of the local populations who live in connection with nature (watercourse, forest):
  - Mercury pollution of fish (pregnant women)
  - Loss of their peaceful life: theft (abattis, boats), competition for hunting
  - Alcohol, prostitution
Awarasoula (Maripasoula): next to the village of Twenke / Taluen (25/01/20)
**Massif Emérillon (Camopi):** progression of a site (right to left) which is destroying gradually the creek (20/09/19)
Eau Claire (Maripasoula): a hill terraced in the core zone of the Park (29/01/20)
Confluence Inipi – Camopi: same observation 20 months apart

19/01/18

20/09/19

Boat logistics
PAPAICHTON: 32 active sites. Intense activity in Petit Abounami. Exceptional turbidity

SAUL: 5 active sites to the north. Unique sector recovered from the goldminers (radius of 15 kms from the town centre).

MARIPA-SOULA: 75 active sites. Challenges over the inhabited areas and the core zone. Intense logistics from Suriname.

CAMOPI: 33 sites in the core zone. Difficult to surprise the goldminers scattered over the large territory.

Illegal goldmining in and around the Park in September 2019.
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125 goldmining sites on average in the Park over the last 6 years
Turbidity level never observed until now due to the recent development of mining sites in Suriname on the Maroni’s banks.
Exploitation of the banks in Suriname and activity of the barges
Les enjeux pour le Parc amazoniens sont :  
- Écologique  
- Sanitaire  
- Sécuritaire  
- Culturel